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Plague in Cebu.

Chief Quarantine Officer Heiser reports, September 14, 1903, as follows, in reference to that portion of his cable of September 4, 1903, which states "Plague, Cebu:"

On August 19, 1903, a case of plague was diagnosed at Cebu in the person of a Filipino boy. The patient had not been away from Cebu, and the source of the infection could not be determined. The victim died two days after being taken ill.

Plague has made its appearance at irregular intervals since July 23, 1900. A case was reported on March 12, 1901, another on April 4, 1901, another June 17, 1901, and on May 3, 1902, 2 cases were reported. A preliminary investigation indicates that the plague did not gain entrance through the quarantine. On September 2, 1903, 6 cases and 2 deaths suddenly appeared.

The insular board of health and the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service are actively cooperating. The insular board of health has sent an experienced man and a large supply of Shiga antipest serum and instructions to institute the same measures which are employed in Manila against the plague. We have been fumigating with sulphur every vessel which leaves Cebu for ports at which it is possible to go alongside of a wharf. While this will no doubt effectually stop the danger of conveying the plague from Cebu by vessels, it must be remembered that the history of all epidemic diseases in the islands shows that they are carried from place to place by land. The people embark at convenient places along the shore where there is no quarantine inspection. Only last week while the city health officer at Cebu was making preparations to isolate a case of plague the afflicted person disappeared and was not again heard from until he had reached Mandaue, a town situated at considerable distance from Cebu.

Assistant Surgeon Fox reports, September 1, through the chief quarantine officer that the following quarantinable diseases have been reported to the local health authorities during the month of August, 1903:

	Cases.	Deaths.
Plague	1	1
Cholera	32	29
Smallpox	8	4

Quarantine transactions in the Philippine Islands during August, 1903.

The quarantine transactions of the Service in the Philippine Islands during the month of August, 1903, were as follows:

PORT OF MANILA.

Bills of health issued:	
Steamers for United States ports.....	5
Steamers for foreign ports.....	57
Steamers for domestic ports.....	184
Sailing vessels for foreign ports.....	1
Sailing vessels for domestic ports.....	79
Total	326